

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01122 010617 Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 ACDA-19 AEC-11 SCI-06 OMB-01 RSR-01 MC-02

/146 W

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R 010515 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6608

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1122

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, MOPS, NZ, AS

SUBJECT: GOA/ GNZ NAVY AND FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

1. SECDEF ROBERTSON TOLD ME MAY 1 THAT AFTER PRESSURE FROM PM KIRK, GOA DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD HAD SAID GOA WOULD SEND ALONG A TANKER TO ACCOMPANY GNZS "CANTERBURY" IF NECESSARY AS A LAST RESORT.
2. ROBERTSON SAID THIS WOULD GIVE "CANTERBURY" ABILITY TO REMAIN ON STATION AS LONG AS NEEDED (AND NOT EMBARRASS US BY REFUELING AT PAGO).
3. HE SAID PM KIRK DID NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND THAT "CANTERBURY" SHOULD TAKE PROVOCATIVE ACTION. IT WOULD REMAIN OUTSIDE FRENCH TERRITORIAL SEAS (SIX MILES), BUT THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF ENTERING FRENCH " PROHIBITED ZONE." EXERCISE WAS PLANNED AS DEMONSTRATION OF GNZ DISAPPROVAL AND NOT AS CONFRONTATION WITH GOF FOGRCES.
4. ROBERTSON CONCLUDED HE HAD NEVER ENCOUNTERED

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SO MUCH RELUCTANCE IN PLANNING AN OPERATION WITHIN
HIS OWN DEPARTMENT AND FROM GOA, BUT IT COULD BE DONE.
WOOD

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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